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Senate

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Mighty God, whose ears are attentive to our prayers, we acknowledge that You are the source of all goodness. Lord, the world belongs to You, for You laid the Earth's foundation and built it on the ocean's depths. Bring peace to our world, particularly in Ukraine. Give wisdom to our world leaders so that they will fulfill Your purposes for peace in our world.

We praise You because of Your strength and might. You are invincible in battle, and our times are in Your hands.

Lord, we trust You with our future, offering this prayer in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

AMERICA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANUFACTURING, PRE-EMINENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH ACT OF 2022—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4521, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4521) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

Pending:

Schumer Amendment No. 5002, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer Amendment No. 5003 (to Amendment No. 5002), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5004 (to Amendment No. 5003), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5005 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 5002), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5006 (to Amendment No. 5005), to change the enactment date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions to report back forthwith, Schumer Amendment No. 5007, to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5008 (to the instructions of the motion to commit (Amendment No. 5007), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5009 (to Amendment No. 5008), to change the enactment date.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. McCONNELL. President Biden likes to say, and has said again today, that budgets are statements of values. Indeed, they can be, and the White House budget request that President Biden published today offers the clearest possible reminder that the Biden administration's far-left values are fundamentally disconnected from what American families actually need.

I mentioned around President Biden's State of the Union that the speech gave the President a chance to pivot. He has had a chance to assess the poll numbers, read the tea leaves, and make a dramatic course correction back toward where Americans would like for him to be. But he chose not to, and this budget proposal is just the mathematical version of that failure to pivot.

The White House is desperately spinning to call this budget centrist, but there is nothing remotely moderate about what is in it.

First and foremost, at a dangerous time, the President's budget falls woefully short on defense spending. Our Commander in Chief has again failed to budget for the resources that our Armed Forces actually need. The Biden administration proposes a nominal 4-percent increase for defense over the bipartisan bill Congress just passed for this year.

That is a nominal 4-percent increase before any of the Democrats' historic inflation is taken into account, and inflation right now is about twice that. So even if you accept the White House's rosiest predictions about where inflation is headed, this would amount to flat-funding defense, with none of the robust growth we need to keep pace with Russia and China. Even in the best case scenario for their budget, it

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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